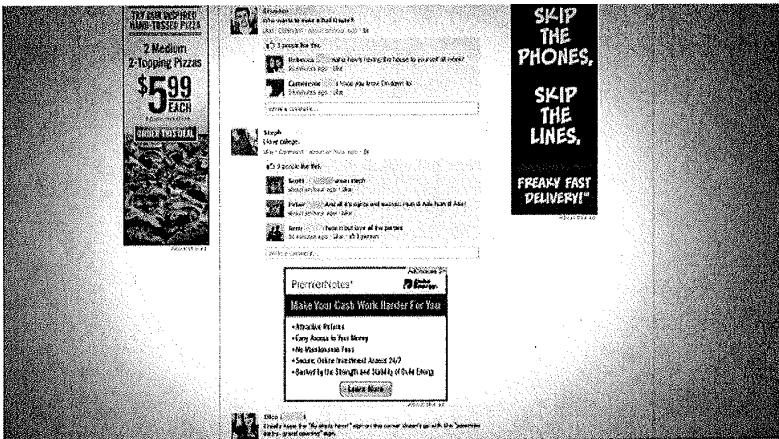


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FRIDAY, APR 20, 2012

How to Remove In-Feed Facebook Ads Caused by Crapware [UPDATED]

A certain set of crapware is spreading that puts giant banner ads on your Facebook news feed. Here's how to remove it.

As usual, this change is a very gradual rollout, so most of you probably haven't even seen the ads yet. Only a few people are privy to the new layout, and we'll warn you: it isn't pretty. The above image shows what the feed will probably look like, provided Facebook doesn't make any changes before the end of the rollout. They seem to range from the large, but normal (Domino's Pizza) to the truly obnoxious (Punch Bin Laden!), so for most this will not be a welcome change.

What we originally thought to be an upcoming Facebook update has turned out to be a 3rd-party plugin that hijacks your Facebook. The plugin adds new big, obnoxious ads next to and inside their Facebook feeds. And, while Facebook is increasing ad placement in an upcoming redesign, this is not a preview of that—this is a plugin you'll want to remove from your computer, and thanks to fellow blogger Mike Holder, we now know how.

It only seems to affect Windows users, but it plugs into every browser on your system. If you're seeing these ads, you'll need to uninstall two separate plugins—PageRage and DropDownDeals. Head to this page to disable PageRage, and head to this page to uncheck everything related to DropDownDeals. You should find, when you're done, that your Facebook has been restored to it's more or less ad-free self. Note that you'll need to do this for each browser you have installed on your computer; it's a nasty little bugger. We'd also recommend running your favorite Antivirus or Anti-malware program to make sure the thing's removed for good.

No word yet on how these plugins got installed, but as always, we recommend safe browsing—especially when it comes to the sketchier apps on Facebook. We hope this helps anyone who's been infected and are sorry for the misinformation in our original post.

The Continued "MySpacing" of Facebook: Banner Ads, Layouts and Sneaky Plugin Installs | Mike Holder


BY WHITSON GORDON SEP 8, 2011 3:30 PM

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
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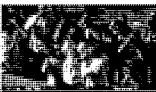
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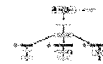
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